

Sustainability and Climate Action Report

Creating an engaged community that promotes environmental stewardship, economic vitality, and social equity to create a sustainable and thriving future for all.



The Sustainability Plan supports the guiding principles of the Envision Longmont Multimodal & Comprehensive Plan. Throughout the report you will see these symbols that highlight connections to the Envision Longmont guiding principles.

Visit longmontindicators.com for progress towards the Envision Longmont and sustainability goals over time.



In December 2020, City Council approved the Climate Action Recommendations Report (CARR). Completed by the Climate Action Task Force and Just Transition Plan Committee, the CARR accelerates Longmont's steps toward a carbon-free future, focusing on the areas of: Adaptation and Resilience, Building Energy Use, Education and Outreach, Land Use and Waste, Renewable Energy, and Transportation, with the overarching priority of equity. The recommendations include new programs and projects, as well as the expansion of existing programs, and process-oriented strategies focused on embedding equity into climate action. 2021 marked the first year of the implementation of the CARR recommendations.

Key Activities and Accomplishments:

Adaptation & Resilience

- Staff continues to develop new resources on flooding mitigation and preparedness. Including the creation of a residential excess runoff handout and hosting multiple Be Ready Longmont events throughout the community.
- The Resilient St. Vrain Project (RSVP) letter of map vision (LOMR) #2 has been approved by FEMA, updating the Preliminary FIRMs (Flood Insurance Rate Maps) in Longmont.
- The City consultant, RTI, has incorporated climate projections from the Boulder County climate mapping project into the City of Longmont climate risk and vulnerability map. Staff are currently working with the consultant to develop an adaptive capacity score and incorporate community stories before publishing the map.

Education & Outreach

- The Museum in partnership with the Sustainability Program developed a new model for the "Big Picture" Climate Lecture series in the Fall, there will be quarterly "Climate Action Sunday" events, the first will be "The Air We Breathe" and "Watch Your Waste." These events will be presented in partnership with Sustainable Resilient Longmont.

Equity in Climate Action

- The Equitable Climate Action Team (ECAT) provided input on four City climate action projects and added one new member.
- The City hired an Equity and Engagement Specialist who will coordinate ECAT and support City implementation of equity-based community engagement.

CLIMATE ACTION

intersects with many actions in the Sustainability Plan.

Look for the graphic below throughout the report for more climate action updates.





In November 2016, City Council adopted the City's Sustainability Plan. The Plan supports the guiding principles of the Envision Longmont Multimodal & Comprehensive Plan while focusing on actions that can be taken over the next ten years to help meet long-term goals that promote social equity, environmental stewardship, and economic vitality for all residents of Longmont. 2021 marks five years since the adoption of the Sustainability Plan.



Air Quality

Improve air quality to protect public and environmental health.

- Staff shared air monitoring results with COGCC and CDPHE and filed thirteen formal complaints regarding elevated air pollutants.
- The City is participating in ongoing meetings with the Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC), the Regional Air Monitoring & Messaging (RAMM) Network, and Boulder County to refine and align air quality messaging around ozone reduction.



Building & Infrastructure

Adopt policies, programs, and design guidelines for resilient and efficient buildings and community infrastructure to enhance quality of life, reduce costs and complement the natural environment.

- All staff have been hired and onboarded so the City Housing Rehabilitation program is ramping up to full capacity. However, staff is still dealing with a lack of contractor, construction cost increases, and supply chain delays.
- **Climate Action:** Requirements for solar ready and EV ready homes are now part of the 2021 international residential code (IRC) for the City.



Community Cohesion & Resilience

A vibrant community where all residents have equitable access to the opportunities needed to thrive, while preserving and enhancing natural, cultural and financial resources.

- The Sustainable Neighborhood Solutions program has approved three grant applications in 2022 totaling \$4,600 in funding. The projects include a composting demonstration program, a bench to encourage walking in a senior community, and creation of a community pollinator garden. New youth representative has been added to the SNS award committee.
- The City internal Equity Team has continued to host equity trainings for City staff, including 30-minute sessions on equity vs equality, land acknowledgments and micro-aggressions. The team also created a contact form and is reviewing and responding to submissions by City staff members on equity concerns.



Economic Vitality

Support a diverse economy that is aligned with social and environmental goals of providing local jobs, livable wages, and encouraging innovative and green businesses and business practices.

- Staff have continued the Sustainable Business Program in a limited capacity during the rehiring process for the Business Sustainability Coordinator. A new Coordinator started in August.





The Sustainability Plan supports the guiding principles of Envision Longmont while focusing on actions that can be taken over the next ten years to help meet long-term sustainability goals. The Plan utilizes an integrated, relational approach to identify objectives, targets, timelines, and activities in ten primary topic areas.



Energy

Increase energy efficiency and expand the use of renewable energy technologies to improve environmental quality, provide a resilient energy supply, and realize related economic benefits.

- **Climate Action:** An AMI Test Environment and Test Lab has been installed at the Service Center that will be used to provide proof-of-concept prior to installing our first customer meters. This September, the initial deployment of 580 AMI meters will begin.
- **Climate Action:** There are more than 80 enrolled participants in the ecobee Smarter Summer thermostat demand response demonstration, which uses customer devices to reduce electric demand during the cooling season. Results from the demonstration will include estimated demand savings potential and data to inform if and how to scale the program.
- **Climate Action:** Staff will present the final Beneficial Building Electrification Plan to City Council in the Fall 2022.



Food System

Support a locally-based, environmentally responsible and healthy food system that is available to all residents.

- No mid-year program updates.



Natural Environment

Minimize the negative effects of development and human activities on natural systems by identifying, protecting, enhancing, and restoring critical environmental resources at all scales.

- An updated tree canopy study was performed with 2020 data. Since 2008, tree canopy has increased from 8% to 12.67%. Forestry has changed the focus of how they plant trees to only planting sites that are irrigated, rather than planting high numbers of trees. This is an effort to decrease young tree mortality by knowing that the climate will become hotter and drier in the future so trees should only be planted in locations with adequate water to achieve a mature size.
- City staff are continuing to work towards projecting and restoring habitats. There are ongoing efforts to treat and remove noxious weeds and propagate plants to enhance pollinator habitats. The Stream Management Plan initial draft should be completed by the end of the 3rd quarter of 2022.





The City of Longmont is working to ensure our community's long-term vitality and to chart a course toward a more sustainable future in which every resident and business can enjoy a safe, healthy, and fulfilling life in our city.

Learn more about all City sustainability programs at longmontcolorado.gov/sustainability



Transportation

Invest in an efficient transportation system that enhances mobility, equitably supports multiple modes of transportation, reduces environmental impacts, and supports a healthier community.



- **Climate Action:** There is a new effort with the Longmont Economic Development Partnership in 2022 to work with local, private transit operators to better connect key activity centers in Longmont using financial support from local business/employers.
- **Climate Action:** Many new bike lanes, trails, and sidewalks have been added to the City's transportation system in an effort to create safer spaces for all modes of travel.
- Longmont Power & Communications launched an e-bike rebate demonstration program. Forty-one rebates and four income-qualified rebates were provided to residents to purchase new e-bikes during the program offering. This fall, the City will evaluate success. At this time, there are no future plans for the program.



Waste

Increase opportunities for waste diversion, education, and reuse to reduce environmental impacts.



- Columbine Elementary school and Silvercreek High school have launched as the most recent Green Star Schools in Longmont, bringing total participating schools to 11.
- **Climate Action:** Staff presented a draft updated Zero Waste Resolution to City Council on June 28 for discussion and direction, and will integrate comments and bring back to Council in September. Staff is also drafting a Universal Recycling Ordinance informed by data analysis and community engagement that has been occurring throughout 2022.
- The City of Longmont Staff continues to partner with the Resource Conservation Advisory Board (RCAB) and Recycle Colorado. RCAB will be revisiting and supporting compost infrastructure opportunities and Recycle Colorado continues to pursue educational/ information opportunities as well as supporting legislative actions to continue progress on waste diversion.



Water

Preserve the natural environment in our watershed and provide a reliable, high quality water supply that protects public health.



- Water Resources and Planning and Development Services staff worked together to create a list of trees and shrubs that developers and planners can use to encourage water-wise landscape choices.
- A City staff watershed group continues to meet quarterly to collaborate on such topics as storm water management, contaminants of emerging concerns, natural channel maintenance, flood, and fire mitigation.
- **Climate Action:** Staff has begun initial conversations with Water Board and other internal entities to bring awareness to the upcoming Water Efficiency Master Plan update and to begin to gauge internal feedback. Staff has the intention of presenting the Plan Update ideas and goals to City Council in the Fall of 2022.

